INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

nal Application No PulliB2005/050406

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 A6188/00 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) A61B F16M Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included. In the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the International search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Relevant to claim No. Citation of document, with Indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages 1-20 X US 5 924 988 A (BURRIS ET AL) 20 July 1999 (1999-07-20) column 1, line 57 - column 2, line 9 column 5, line 48 - column 7, line 22 figures 4,5,7 1,16,18 Α US 4 625 731 A (QUEDENS ET AL) 2 December 1986 (1986-12-02) column 2, line 34 - column 3, line 59 figure 1 1,16,18 US 6 669 639 B1 (MILLER BRAD A ET AL) A 30 December 2003 (2003-12-30) column 1, line 40 - line 52 column 4, line 22 - line 41 figures 1,5 Patent family members are listed in annex. Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Special categories of cited documents: "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance invention *E* earlier document but published on or after the International "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such docu-"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or ments, such combination being obvious to a person skilled other means document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed *&* document member of the same patent family Date of the actual completion of the international search Date of mailing of the international search report 23/03/2005 16 March 2005 **Authorized officer** Name and mailing address of the ISA

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